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The Chester Inn

It Proved a Fitting Place For a Wedding

By ETHEL HOLMES

John Overaker, a member of the national guard of the state of New York, was engaged to be married to Helen Withers, who lived in Chicago. John was called to the colors with the expectation of being sent to the war at an early date. Most young men who are called upon to fight for their country and have sweethearts seem to prefer to go forth as married rather than as bachelors. At any rate, John Overaker proposed a wedding to his fiancée, and his proposition was accepted to by the lady.

Since Miss Withers lived a thousand miles from Mr. Overaker and he could not get a leave to be absent long enough to go to Chicago, he married and returned, an agreement was made between the lovers that she should come to him instead of his going to her for the wedding. Miss Withers did not like the idea of a wedding in Mr. Overaker's home instead of her own, or in a hotel, or in the office of a justice of the peace. Just as she was about to start east she received a letter from a Mrs. Chester, an intimate friend living near New York, to whom she had written of her quandary, inviting her to be married from her house. Not having time before starting to write fully on the subject, Miss Withers scratched off a brief note to her lover asking him to meet her on a certain date at the location in which her friend lived, adding, "Come to the Chester."

It is unfortunate to be obliged to write hurried instructions for a meeting. Miss Withers' ink gave out as she finished the word "Chester," and there was none left for the "x." When Overaker read the note he inferred that the Chester was an inn. He was too busy with his military duties to read the missive over a second time. Indeed, it was difficult for him to do all he had to do before leaving to keep the appointment.

Overaker concluded to make the journey in civilian dress, though he took with him a uniform in which to be married. After spending an hour on a train he alighted at his station. A taxi chauffeur stepped up to him, and Overaker told him that he wished to go to "the Chester." The man knew of no such hotel; but, preferring not to confess his ignorance and having often seen a handsome residence which was known as the Chester place, he concluded to take the chances of its being the house his fiancée meant. The consequence was that Overaker was driven to the house where he was to meet his bride, thinking that he was going to a hotel.

A maid in black and white uniform opened the door for him, and in a few minutes a lady came in to receive him. "I would like a room, if you please," he said. "I am to meet a lady from Chicago here, Miss Withers. Has she arrived?"

Now, the lady was Miss Withers' friend, Mrs. Chester. She had expected Miss Withers a few hours before Overaker arrived, but had received a telegram from some one—doubtless traveling with Miss Withers—stating that there had been a railway accident and consequent delay. The fact that the telegram made no mention of Miss Withers having escaped injury looked ominous. It occurred to Mrs. Chester that it would be better for the present to keep the matter from Mr. Overaker. His having mistaken her house for an inn facilitated her doing so.

"The lady has not yet arrived," she said, "but I have been advised of her coming."

"I am Lieutenant John Overaker. I am to meet Miss Withers here to be married to her. Did she mention this fact?"

"She did. She is to be married in this house."

"Do you know if she expects me to make the necessary preparations for the wedding?"

"I will do that for her."

"Indeed. Have you had any previous acquaintance with her?"

"Oh, yes; Miss Withers has been here a number of times."

"Very well. I suppose there is nothing for me to do, so with your permission I will go to my room. I have been so busy lately that I have had very little sleep. I may get a nap before my fiancée's arrival. It will refresh me."

This suited Mrs. Chester exactly, since she hoped to get news of Miss Withers while her fiancée was resting. She led the way upstairs to a chamber. Overaker following. It did not look like a hotel bedroom, there being pictures on the walls and various articles that one does not find except in a private house, but Overaker was too much absorbed in his approaching nuptials, to say nothing of his military situation, to dwell upon the condition of his room, and after getting the dust off him he threw himself on the bed, closed his eyes and in a few minutes dropped asleep.

The next news Mrs. Chester received of Miss Withers was brought by the lady herself. She had not been injured in the railroad accident and was perfectly well. Mrs. Chester informed her of the arrival of her fiancée; that he had mistaken the house for an inn; that she had permitted him to remain in error that she might better save him

an anxiety concerning his expected bride.

Miss Withers went to Overaker's room, knocked gently at the door and, giving no other reply than a snore, she opened the door sufficiently to enable her to look in at her slumbering fiancée. He seemed so dead tired and was resting so comfortably that she did not the heart to awaken him. Going downstairs to her friend, she said: "I don't know but that we had better permit him to remain in ignorance of the fact that he is in a private house. He is very sensitive as to his entourage of others, and to know that he had spoken to my friend and hostess as a landlady would dampen his spirit for the wedding so soon to follow."

"I have been thinking of the same thing and quite agree with you," replied Mrs. Chester. "There will be no necessity to make an explanation. You can tell him about it at some future time."

At the end of two hours after Miss Withers' arrival the time appointed for the wedding arrived, and the butler was sent to Overaker's room to awaken him and announce Miss Withers' arrival. The announcement tended to arouse the lieutenant, who completed his toilet and, going down into the drawing room, embraced the girl who was soon to be his bride. She explained the delay in her arrival, and her presence uninvited did away with the shock that might otherwise have been expected.

"I think we need some refreshment," said Overaker, and, stepping to an electric button, pushed it. The butler entered, and Overaker said: "Bring us in a bite of anything you may have in the larder and let me have a wine card."

The butler had been coached and retorted with a simple "Yes, sir." The bride to be was about to inform her lover that he was making a mistake, but changed her mind, concluding to let the matter take its course. There being some delay in serving the refreshment, Overaker rang the bell again, intending to give the butler a piece of his mind for being so long. But the man brought with him a tray, on which were a dainty luncheon and a bottle of wine.

"All right," said Overaker. "Where's the wine card?"

"The landlady says that it will be in the bill," was the reply.

Lieutenant Overaker and his bride to be enjoyed a very delicious luncheon together. Overaker, it must be admitted, was more in a condition to make merry than his fiancée, who was beginning to feel somewhat concerned as to the treatment the friend who was permitting the use of her house for the bride was receiving at the hands of her lover. This belief that Mrs. Chester was a landlady and was to receive pay for what she was giving was becoming embarrassing. Something must be done to change the status.

"Don't you think," said Miss Withers, "that since Mrs. Chester has been so kind as to make the arrangements for our wedding we should invite her to lunch with us?"

"Certainly. Bring her in."

Miss Withers went out and returned with Mrs. Chester, who played her part as landlady admirably and treated the bride and groom with the respect due them from one of her station. Overaker drew the line between his landlady and an equal, much to her amusement, while his fiancée was a trifle embarrassed at the situation.

The wedding was set for 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Overaker was to leave to rejoin his regiment at 5, while the bride was to remain for a brief visit. When the parson arrived the household entered a room that had been properly decorated and awaited the coming of the bride and groom. The latter was somewhat surprised at the richness of the decorations and voted the landlady who had prepared them a trump. But what surprised him more was to find her gowned and jeweled in a manner not befitting the landlady of the Chester Inn. There was still another surprise—a necklace that only a person of wealth could afford, which Mrs. Chester gave the bride for a wedding present.

By this time Overaker began to suspect that something was wrong. But he did not communicate his suspicions to his bride. Shortly before leaving the house he said to her:

"I suppose I am in for some expense in this matter."

"Not at all," was the reply. "Since we could not be married in Chicago, where all the expense would have fallen on my father, the bills here are all paid, the same as if the wedding had taken place at my home."

"But"—began the groom and paused.

"But what?"

"How about the luncheon and wine I ordered?" stammered the lieutenant.

The bride broke into a laugh, called her friend, "the landlady," and all was explained to the groom.

His remark on being enlightened was indicative of the selfishness of man.

"If this gets out in the regiment I'm gone up."

"I am delighted," said Mrs. Chester, "with the outcome of this affair. When this morning I received the telegram announcing the accident I was filled with terror lest we should have something very different from a wedding. I had no idea in permitting Lieutenant Overaker to remain in error, turning the affair into a bit of fun. He should certainly thank me for saving him from several hours' bitter anxiety."

"And he has also to thank you," replied the lieutenant, "for a luncheon and a bottle of wine."

When Lieutenant Overaker returned from the bridal trip, which lasted but a few days, they went to Mrs. Chester's house. Since Overaker could not atone for mistaking her for a landlady by a gift he declared that he would name his first girl child for her.

Ford

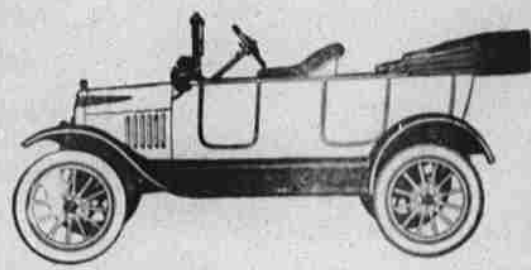
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DR. J. C. HALL

ESTEP, KY.

Agent for part of north end of Lawrence Co.



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How to Pack a Trunk

When packing for a trip always remember to put all the heaviest things at the bottom of the trunk. Evening dresses, periwinkle waists and all such dainty things should be put on top where you can reach them. Hang them up as soon as your trunk arrives at your destination. A hat trunk is not a necessity. Put your hat on the top tray of your trunk and secure it with push pins to the bottom. Unless the trim is wide this will do no harm.

Stuff the bodices of waists, light dresses, etc., with tissue paper. Roll the paper into light balls, never tightly. The result should look like an article just sent from the cleaners.

Hop Beer

Take four pounds of malt, two pounds of brown sugar, one pint of molasses, one-half pound of hops to eight gallons of water. Steep this in a boiler all night (don't boil it). Put it in a keg and when lukewarm add one yeast cake and let it work eight to ten hours. Then put the faucet and bung in.

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We have a lot of bulls of the best breeding suitable for heading herds. Also a number of farmers bulls priced from \$100.00 up. A few choice cows and heifers.

Herds headed by Banff Goods 387535, a red bred by M. E. Jones, Williams, Ill. Champions for ten generations. Lord Ripley 353165 by the \$1000.00 Lord Albin out of Imp. Rosie 102 and Cloverleaf Favorite 45174, a double grandson of the famous Max-walton Sultan.

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60 acres rolling and hill. Frame house 4 rooms, in good repair, handy to school, church, store and station. Some fruit. If you have not \$1000 you can double it every two years in this farm. Cash deal. Price...\$1600

100 acres, 7 acres fine bearing orchard. Fine 5 room house, good barn, all kinds of out buildings, on one of the best places in the country. Price to settle estate...\$3200 and terms to suit you with one-third cash.

150 acres with seven houses, three of them good frame houses, main house has 11 rooms. Two large barns, several sheds, stables, etc., with \$5000 worth of goods. All for...\$14000. Half cash, balance to suit you at six per cent. A bargain.

I have other bargains. Come and let me show you the country. Free board while you look. These farms are going fast. We have NO NEGROES here and best of schools and churches. Roads are second to none. Train leaves Iron-ton, Ohio, for Bloom at 9 o'clock for Iron-ton and Portsmouth, O., for Bloom at 6:40 a. m. and 2 p. m. This is the hand-dest place on earth to reach. Come and see for yourself.

Yours truly,

FRED B. LYNCH

Bloom, Switch, Ohio.

Did You Ever Pay a Bill Twice

The one who has not had to pay more than one bill the second time is the exception and not the rule. Few people when paying a bill ask for a receipt and if they do they fail to keep the receipt. Did you ever have a dispute over a payment? Unpleasant is it not? Do you wish the circumstance to occur again? There is one sure way to escape it. Pay your bills with checks. If you received no interest on your idle money it would only show good sense and good wisdom to have it in a BANK. Transact your business in a business way and pay your bills by checks. Your check when returned to you makes an indisputable receipt. A bank account makes you systematic and encourages you to save part of your income. Many a man has become rich because he became interested in watching his bank balance, and was thus led to find ways to increase it. Start a BANK ACCOUNT with US and WE will help YOU make it larger. Why not begin TO-DAY.

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